

400854

24 April 1957

HODP010048073



Memorandum for General Starbird:

As a result of my discussion with General Luedecke on this date regarding the DoD's position on the Taongi paper, General Luedecke made the following four points:

1. He does not believe that they can do the job by the methods programmed by UCRL, i.e., they cannot dig the channel as quickly and as cheaply as UCRL indicated.
2. The status of the Class A weapon is a controlling factor. Unless we can be sure that the Class A will be available to test in HARDTACK on Taongi we would be on thin ground attempting to justify the additional site.
3. The magnitude of the total program is so large he feels the SecDef and the Chairman, AEC would personally have to sit down and review together whether or not we should include Taongi. He roughly estimates that the DoD costs alone are approximately \$57,000,000 at this point.

4. He did not specifically have the reaction of the Navy people regarding their ability to support the additional site. He stated that they could and will do the job if approved by the SecDef but would not on their own recommend such a decision.

Subsequent reading with Navy <sup>indicates they</sup> would be hard pressed and quite reluctant.

IJH  
IJHarrell

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

1ST REVIEWER-DATE AUTHORITY: BASIC CHECK DATE	2-2-94	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
NAME: HBSchmitt		1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
2ND REVIEWER-DATE	6-15-94	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
AUTHORITY: ADD		3. CONTAINS NO DDC CLASSIFIED INFO
NAME		4. COORDINATE WITH:
		5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
		6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

~~SECRET~~

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From NMB-Q

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